



Director of
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USSR: Chernobyl' Recovery Timetable

[redacted] Soviet cleanup crews are storing debris from the area around reactor 4 in large containers located nearby at the partially constructed reactor 5. According to press reports, the disposal of this contaminated debris is part of a recovery program slated to continue until 15 June. The operation proposes to entomb unit 4 in concrete, prepare the other three units for operation, and clear the 30-kilometer zone around Chernobyl' of radiation hazards. [redacted] contrary to earlier indications—the Soviets may not have shut down the Smolensk power plant, which has the same kind of reactors as unit 4 at Chernobyl'. [redacted]

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Comment: The Soviets probably will not meet their target date for completing the Chernobyl' cleanup, especially the reopening of unit 3 and decontamination within the entire 30-kilometer zone. They appear willing to delay construction of unit 5 in order to speed the recovery. [redacted] operations at Smolensk supports Soviet statements that they are treating the Chernobyl' accident as an isolated event, not an indicator of generic problems with that model reactor. Two other such reactors at Kursk appear to be operating at reduced levels or possibly shut down. [redacted]

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UK: Defense Leaders Lean Toward US AWACS

[redacted] In addition, the major Nimrod contractors are losing confidence that the program can be revived, according to our attache. [redacted]

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Comment: Cancellation of the Labor Party-initiated Nimrod program and the selection of a US alternative will be a difficult decision for Prime Minister Thatcher's government because of budget constraints and anti-US sentiment following the recent takeover of two large British companies by US firms. As a face-saving measure, some Nimrod avionics systems probably could be incorporated on a US AWACS. The UK could select either the Grumman E-2C or the Boeing E-3A AWACS. The French are also discussing the purchase of a US AWACS, raising the possibility of AWACS coverage and interoperability throughout the Alliance. [redacted]

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